

STORY 71.

THE IDEAL OF HONESTY IN ISLAM.

AT Sialkot there lived a Sayid whose name was Mir Faiz Ullah. He was not a rich man yet he was much respected by Hindus and Muslims alike for his sterling character.

One day he was on his way to a village where his relatives lived. It was afternoon when at a distance of about six or seven miles from the city he caught sight of a large lump of silver lying in the middle of the road and partly hidden by dust.

At first he thought that he might leave it alone and go his way. But he soon changed his mind. He thought that if he went away and left the silver there it might be lost, or taken by some one to whom it did not belong. He at once realized that his seeing the thing had imposed on him the responsibility of finding out its owner and restoring it to him. Accordingly he picked up the silver, sat down by the side of the road and began to wait for the owner. He had to stay there hungry and thirsty for several hours before the owner came.

From his appearance and his embarrassed manner it was apparent that he was the owner, but to make certain that it was so he enquired from him the weight and price of the lump as well as the name of the shop where he had bought it.

Then he accompanied him to the shop named by him, verified all the particulars given by him and then restored to him the silver. Honesty cannot go farther than this.